

Eastern Neck

National Wildlife Refuge

Fact Sheet for Members of Congress



Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Paul S. Sarbanes (D)
Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D)
Rep. Wayne T. Gilchrest (R-1st)

Contact

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Profile

Established:	1962
Current acres:	2,286
Staff:	5
FY 2003 budget:	\$352,000
2002 volunteer hours:	3,500
2002 visitation:	71,000

Purpose

Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge was established for the protection and management of habitat for migratory birds, threatened and endangered plants and animals, and other native species.

Public Use Notes

- Visitor contact station and bookstore
- Interpretive trails (fully accessible boardwalk with observation tower and bay view/butterfly trail)
- Hunting (deer and turkey)
- Fishing and crabbing
- Public boat ramp (county permit)
- Environmental education

Management Activities

- Managing 10 water impoundments to provide migratory bird habitat
- Managing a cooperative farming program on 570 acres to provide food for migratory birds
- Enhancing endangered Delmarva fox squirrel habitat by maintaining an open forest understory through prescribed burning and reforestation
- Monitoring and protecting nesting bald eagles and their habitat
- Maintaining nest boxes for bluebirds and wood ducks
- Controlling invasive/exotic species
- Administering public hunts to control the refuge deer population
- Restoring wetland and upland habitats on and off the refuge

Highlights

From October through April, migratory waterfowl, including tundra swans, geese and ducks, frequent the refuge.

Shorebirds, wading and marsh birds such as herons, egrets and rails can be seen along the refuge's shores and marshes throughout the year.

The refuge provides habitat for a remnant population of endangered Delmarva fox squirrel.

Bald eagles nest on the refuge.

A historic hunting lodge is being renovated as a visitor center and office.

The refuge is implementing renewable energy technologies using solar panels and wind turbine to serve as a demonstration project for the public and government agencies.

Issues

Mute swans, phragmites and other exotic plants and animals impact native species habitat.

The refuge's marshland shoreline continues to erode at an alarming rate.

The refuge is being considered as a beneficial use site for the placement of dredge soil material to restore 500 acres of tidal marsh.

The refuge is concerned over the disappearance of submerged aquatic vegetation around the refuge and in the Chester River.

The refuge's endangered Delmarva fox squirrel population has nearly disappeared.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

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